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## Commissioners' Office



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May 4, 2007

Mr. Ron Cowan, CIO Lewistown Hospital 400 Highland Avenue Lewistown, PA 17044

Dear Mr. Cowan,

The Fulton County Board of Commissioners is happy to provide a letter of support for the Juniata Valley Network (JVN) consortium grant application to the FCC Rural Health Pilot Program. We understand that Lewistown Hospital is the primary applicant on behalf of the JVN.

It is our understanding that the IVN will connect to the Fulton County Medical Center and the new, under construction, Fulton County Medical Center (FCMC) facility. Both buildings will eventually be connected and used by FCMC to provide health services to our community. We also understand that the JVN will connect to the Tri-State Community Health Center which is a Federally Qualified Health Center providing free health services to the needy citizens of our community. The support that the JVN will offer these health care facilities will be of great benefit towards assisting them to provide top quality health care services to our rural community.

We also understand that the JVN will connect to our school health clinics via the Tuscarora Intermediate Units newly proposed network. Our school health clinics are an important health care resource in our community. Our student population in Fulton County has a higher then normal incidence rate of diabetes. This is also evident in the mortality rates for diabetes in our community which are higher then state and national averages. The JVN will be able to provide diabetes educational programs to the students in our schools and we commend this effort to address a serious health concern in our county. We are also glad to see the partnership that

Mr. Ron Cowan, CIO Page 2 May 4, 2007

has emerged as a result of the FCC project. The combination of these two entities will help insure that this entire project is sustainable after the grant funds run out.

Fulton County is also interested in participating in the proposed network study on making broadband wireless services available to various health care personnel. Whatever we can do to help this study, including an analysis of how our 9-1-1 communications towers might be used, we will be glad to cooperate. Overall the JVN is just the kind of project our area needs to not only improve the health care outcomes of our residents, but to also help boost the economic vitality of our great community.

Sincerely,

FULTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Daniel H. Swain, Jr., Chair

Bonnie Mellott-Keefer

Ellis L Yingling